

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 166 - HB 733

April 7, 2021

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Revises the offense of aggravated cruelty to animals.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (006819): Deletes and replaces all language after the enacting clause such that the only substantive change is to specify the offense of aggravated cruelty to animals includes intentional or knowing failure to provide food or water to the companion animal resulting in a substantial risk of death or death.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-212(b)(1), aggravated cruelty means conduct which is done or carried out in a depraved and sadistic manner and which tortures or maims an animal, including the failure to provide food and water to a companion animal resulting in a substantial risk of death or death.
- The proposed legislation removes the definition of aggravated cruelty and specifies that a person commits aggravated animal cruelty when, with no justifiable purpose, the person knowingly kills, maims, tortures, drowns, suffocates, mutilates, starves, or otherwise causes serious physical harm to a companion animal; or fails to provide food or water to the companion animal resulting in a substantial risk of death or death.
- Based on information from the Department of Correction there has been an average of three aggravated cruelty to animals admissions over the past five years.
- Any impact to state incarceration resulting from revising the offense of aggravated cruelty to animals is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The script is cursive and fluid.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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